

VOL. 30, NO. 27

CONNELLSTVILLE, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, JANUARY 14, 1909.

EIGHT PAGES.

## 1908 WORST YEAR IN TEN FOR CONNELLSTVILLE COKE.

REGION'S INDUSTRY REFLEX  
OF BUSINESS DEPRESSION.

The Year Just Ended Saw an Unprecedented Falling Off in the Amount of Coke Produced and Marketed.

## VERY POOR PRICES PREVAILED.

With One Exception They Were The Lowest Since 1898—Thousands of New Ovens Completed and Other Thousands Under Construction During the Year.

The Connellsville coke trade of 1908 reflects the financial depression which prevailed during the year. Not for ten years has the output of the regions been so small in volume and in value. The 10,700,000 tons marketed, representing a value of \$13,350,000, as against an output of 19,000,000 tons during the previous year valued at \$25,184,000. With the low demand came tumbling prices which made the average for the year \$1.80 per ton as against \$2.20 per ton in 1907.

The financial panic of the fall of 1907 had an immediate effect upon the coke trade. The output of November shrunk to 68 per cent. of the capacity of the region and that of December was but 33 per cent. of the capacity. The beginning of 1908 witnessed a slight recovery. In February and March the output was 40 to 42 per cent. of the capacity; in April, May and June, it stood at 35 per cent., rising in July to 42 per cent., and dropping to 37 per cent. in August. In September, it rose to 43 per cent.; in October, to 51 per cent., dropping to 49 per cent. in November, and rising slightly in December to 50 per cent. The present outlook is for much better business despite a temporary lull.

The following statement shows the aggregate number of ovens in both regions at the close of each year, the annual output, the average price and the gross value of the same, from 1880 to date, as compiled by The Courier:

Year	Ovens	Shipped	Tons	Av. Price	Gross Value
1880	7,211	2,902,467	1,441,233	\$2.10	\$3,026,509
1881	8,208	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1882	9,195	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1883	10,182	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1884	11,169	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1885	12,156	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1886	13,143	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1887	14,130	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1888	15,117	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1889	16,104	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1890	17,091	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1891	18,078	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1892	19,065	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1893	20,052	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1894	21,039	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1895	22,026	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1896	23,013	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1897	24,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1898	25,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1899	26,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1900	27,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1901	28,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1902	29,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1903	30,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1904	31,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1905	32,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1906	33,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1907	34,000	3,000,000	1,441,233	2.10	3,026,509
1908	35,000	10,700,000	1,441,233	1.80	13,350,000

The weekly estimates of production compiled and published by The Weekly Courier show an aggregate manufacturing of 9,704,413 tons, of which 5,705,411 tons are credited to the Connellsville region and 3,999,002 to the Lower Connellsville region. The following tabulation shows the figures by quarters during the year:

Quarter	Connellsville	Lower Connellsville	Total
1st	1,339,001	780,547	2,119,548
2d	1,339,001	780,547	2,119,548
3d	1,339,001	780,547	2,119,548
4th	1,339,001	780,547	2,119,548
Total	5,356,002	3,999,002	9,355,004

These weekly estimates of production are merely approximate, and are always so represented, but they never vary more than from 2 to 5 per cent. from the actual tonnage as shown by the railroad weighslips. The apparent discrepancy of nearly a million tons between the aggregate of estimated production and the actual output is due to the fact that there was on the yards of the region the first of last year an immense amount of stock coke much of which has been shipped out during the year, thus making the output larger than the production.

The following table shows the actual number of tons shipped from each region and from both and their distribution:

Points of Origin	Lower Connellsville	Connellsville	Total
Pittsburgh	3,444,017	1,111,473	4,555,490
West	3,444,017	1,111,473	4,555,490
East	3,444,017	1,111,473	4,555,490
Total	6,888,034	2,222,946	9,110,980

Prices began to fall during the last two months of 1907. Prior to that time they had held firmly around \$3.00 per ton. With the opening of 1908, furnace coke was selling around \$2.00 and foundry \$2.50. The market held up pretty well for several months, but April saw furnace coke down to \$1.20 and foundry coke below \$2.00, a condition which prevailed until Novem-

## THE STATISTICAL STORY OF THE SLUMP OF 1908

In the Coke Trade of the Connellsville Region as Told By the Tables of Monthly Production and Output for That and Previous Years.

The tables found below show at a glance how greatly the year 1908 made inroads on the previous prosperity of the Connellsville coke industry, but by comparison with other periods of depression, they also show the periodicity of business declines, and in the same manner point hopefully towards the future. The region is now slowly emerging from a business collapse whose most severe point was passed many months ago. The Weekly Courier's statistics tell the story of the slump which kept pace with a world-wide industrial decline. They also show the recovery.

## Shipments from the Connellsville Region by Months for 1908.

MONTH	CARB.				TONS			
	Pitts.	West.	East.	Total	Pitts.	West.	East.	Total
January	10,859	6,086	1,216	18,200	379,142	384,019	36,516	499,677
February	10,859	7,131	1,041	18,955	381,050	318,855	27,700	527,555
March	10,859	7,131	1,041	18,955	370,859	326,815	24,251	521,925
April	8,108	7,905	1,116	17,129	315,212	328,560	22,708	476,480
May	8,244	7,660	918	16,822	229,242	224,628	21,578	475,448
June	8,848	7,660	1,036	17,544	229,499	216,780	27,613	473,892
July	10,859	9,039	901	20,799	256,535	262,101	24,133	542,822
August	12,025	9,344	1,107	22,476	327,428	263,982	29,573	621,983
September	12,025	9,344	1,107	22,476	316,816	278,613	25,952	621,381
October	12,234	9,462	1,207	22,903	329,567	264,045	32,455	626,067
November	11,601	9,462	1,207	22,270	316,585	265,511	31,268	613,364
December	13,008	13,006	1,837	27,851	354,311	352,978	50,723	758,012
Total	127,876	104,519	14,211	246,606	3,444,017	2,978,481	384,896	6,807,394

## Shipments from the Lower Connellsville Region by Months for 1908.

MONTH	CARB.				TONS			
	Pitts.	West.	East.	Total	Pitts.	West.	East.	Total
January	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	48,466	172,417	27,346	248,229
February	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	53,248	200,564	21,709	275,521
March	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	46,176	212,451	21,295	279,922
April	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	39,845	210,519	23,452	273,816
May	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	47,562	227,772	22,319	297,653
June	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	50,400	226,829	22,326	309,555
July	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	55,349	228,122	22,365	305,836
August	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	56,817	274,294	23,281	354,392
September	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	59,450	281,168	24,031	364,649
October	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	61,516	276,103	22,161	359,780
November	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	51,098	281,168	23,758	356,024
December	1,407	6,039	966	7,432	44,404	359,804	43,740	447,948
Total	17,632	91,006	12,278	120,916	611,475	3,122,426	326,574	3,960,475

## Output of Both Regions, by Months in Cars and Tons, 1903 to 1908, Inclusive.

MONTH	CARB.				TONS			
	Pitts.	West.	East.	Total	Pitts.	West.	East.	Total
January	10,859	6,086	1,216	18,200	379,142	384,019	36,516	499,677
February	10,859	7,131	1,041	18,955	381,050	318,855	27,700	527,555
March	10,859	7,131	1,041	18,955	370,859	326,815	24,251	521,925
April	8,108	7,905	1,116	17,129	315,212	328,560	22,708	476,480
May	8,244	7,660	918	16,822	229,242	224,628	21,578	475,448
June	8,848	7,660	1,036	17,544	229,499	216,780	27,613	473,892
July	10,859	9,039	901	20,799	256,535	262,101	24,133	542,822
August	12,025	9,344	1,107	22,476	327,428	263,982	29,573	621,983
September	12,025	9,344	1,107	22,476	316,816	278,613	25,952	621,381
October	12,234	9,462	1,207	22,903	329,567	264,045	32,455	626,067
November	11,601	9,462	1,207	22,270	316,585	265,511	31,268	613,364
December	13,008	13,006	1,837	27,851	354,311	352,978	50,723	758,012
Total	127,876	104,519	14,211	246,606	3,444,017	2,978,481	384,896	6,807,394

## Coke Production for 1908 From The Courier's Weekly Reports.

Week Ending	Connellsville Region				Lower Connellsville Region				Total		
	Ovens	In.	Out.	Tons	Ovens	In.	Out.	Tons	Ovens	In.	Tons
Jan. 4	23,778	7,991	13,784	77,811	11,957	4,019	7,341	21,227	35,735	12,010	128,828
Jan. 11	23,778	7,991	13,784	77,811	11,957	4,019	7,341	21,227	35,735	12,010	128,828
Jan. 18	23,800	8,224	14,001	93,484	12,268	4,143	7,525	20,534	36,128	14,449	143,838
Jan. 25	23,800	8,187	12,403	74,428	12,267	3,751	7,535	19,434	36,157	14,441	143,792
Jan. 31	23,979	12,008	17,872	177,773	12,529	5,050	8,800	25,378	36,239	21,017	217,568
Feb. 8	23,979	11,804	12,606	120,850	12,521	3,756	6,525	16,352	36,239	17,670	152,373
Feb. 15	23,979	11,804	12,196	118,340	12,488	3,084	6,431	10,078	36,255	17,658	149,018
Feb. 22	23,979	11,804	12,196	118,340	12,488	3,084	6,431	10,078	36,255	17,658	149,018
Feb. 29	23,979	11,867	12,681	91,787	12,414	3,836	6,193	10,354	36,240	16,720	157,982
Mar. 7	23,979	11,867	12,683	95,311	12,414	3,067	6,747	10,319	36,240	17,620	158,824
Mar. 14	23,979	11,867	12,683	95,311	12,414	3,067	6,747	10,319	36,240	17,620	158,824
Mar. 21	24,625	10,982	12,343	97,120	12,863	3,582	6,301	10,215	37,485	16,434	160,665
Mar. 28	24,621	9,900	13,601	77,024	12,913	3,058	5,920	9,639	37,394	15,918	147,663













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# FIELD NEWS IN CONCISE FORM.

James M. Swank, Secretary and General Manager of the American Iron and Steel Association has tendered his resignation, after a service of 26 years, during which time he has been prominently connected with the industrial development of Pennsylvania. His resignation is expected to be accepted. It is expected that Joseph Wharton, President of the Association, will also quit his position.

H. Watson, formerly of Pittsburgh, took charge at the start of the year as manager of the Eureka Fire Brick Works at Mt. Stratlock and is familiarizing himself with the territory.

Another blast furnace has been blown in at the Gary plant of the United States Steel Corporation.

David Tyler, foundryman, died on Christmas day at his home, Millvale, Pa.

The close of the year found the blast furnace capacity of the country close to 20,000,000 tons according to the Iron Trade Review and new furnaces to be built during 1909 will increase this capacity to 22,000,000 tons. Nine absolutely new furnaces with a total capacity of 1,600,000 tons were blown in during the past year. All this means a big demand for coke one of these days.

Scarcity of water in the Latrobe field has hampered coke plants there and more ovens would be fired, were it not for this fact.

The Bessemer Coke Company has awarded the contract for 50 additional ovens at its Millboro plant where 100 ovens are now in steady operation.

Advantage is being taken of the shutdown at many plants to make repairs in preparation for a rush of business when it comes. The H. C. Frick Coke Company is doing a large amount of this kind of work at present.

The Murphy plant of the Echard Coal and Coke Company has been placed beyond want of water for the future by the laying of a two-inch pipe line, 7,000 feet long to a run adjacent to the plant.

The South Ligonier Coal Company is a new organization which has applied for a charter of incorporation this month, with H. E. Barker, A. H. Boyd, W. Humbert Lowry and George W. Deeds as applicants. It is proposed to open a mine near and, later, to erect a coking plant.

The contract for coaling engines on the Pittsburgh division of the B. & O. Railroad has been awarded to the Pennwood Coal Company, of Rockwood, Somerset county.

Having received an inquiry relative to the heating power of ordinary white ash pea coal and gas house coke, we find, upon investigation, that the B. T. U. contained in ordinary white ash pea coal range from 12,000 to 12,500 and in gas house coke, such as is sold in New York, 12,500, says the Coal Trade Journal.

President Oscar G. Murray of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, denies a report that his road is trying to buy the Coal and Coke Railroad of West Virginia, which was built several years ago by Senator H. C. Davis, Senator S. B. Elkins and R. C. Kerrins of St. Louis. The Coal and Coke Railroad in places parallels the B. & O.

The Industrial Works of Bay City, Mich., is erecting a new foundry to be finished in the spring.

The Robeson Iron Company has blown in its blast furnace at Robeson, Pa., after enlarging it during a five-months' shut-down.

Belgium produced 1,095,240 tons of pig iron during the first eleven months of 1908, a decrease of over 200,000 tons compared with the same period of the preceding year.

W. S. McCombs, Superintendent of furnaces for the Ohio Iron and Steel Company at Latrobe, Pa., has resigned after a century, has resigned that place and is succeeded by Mark C. Steese.

Jack Searight has resigned as Superintendent of the Carnegie Furnaces at New Castle, Pa., being succeeded by George Brown, his former assistant.

A limestone automobile road, eight feet wide and four miles in length, will be built around the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company's Works and will have branches to every department of the mill to make it easily accessible.

## STATE ENGINEERS ARRIVE IN TOWN.

Will Get Busy in Making Surveys, Maps and Other Data for State Health Department.

Eight engineers of the State Health Department at Harrisburg arrived in town Saturday night to work under the direction of James M. Clark in making a comprehensive survey of the watersheds of the Youghiogheny and Monongahela rivers for the purpose of aiding the State in its plans for improved sewage conditions.

The engineers who are registered at the Wyman hotel are Charles T. McClay, H. A. Miller, J. E. Dale, D. J. Marshall, H. E. Mayer, W. W. Penal, D. M. Irwin and O. S. Urskel. Their stay in Connellsville will be indefinite.

It is the purpose of the engineers to gather all the data possible concerning the drainage of this section. They will make maps of the region and run all the lines necessary to give the Health Department the information it seeks. The sources of pollution to streams will also be carefully investigated.

This work is being done in connection with the new sewage plans the State Health Department expects to have all the boroughs of the State eventually adopt. As Connellsville has already been directed to take steps in this direction, the work in this section will be directed particularly in that direction.

## KEIGHLEY TELLS OF WASTED COAL.

Safety of Capital Invested and of Miners Must Go Hand in Hand.

### PROBLEMS FOR MANAGERS.

They Are Forced To Deal With Large Quantities of Raw and Untrained Labor Whose Ignorance Thwarts Efforts.—Improvements Needed.

Discussing present mining methods in the bituminous regions of Pennsylvania, "from the standpoint of the mine owner and manager," Fred C. Keighley, General Superintendent of the mines and coke works of the Oliver & Sawyer Steel Company sent an interesting and unusually timely paper to the Coal Mining Institute of America. The paper was read at the meeting of that body in Pittsburgh early in December last but has hitherto remained unpublished.

Mr. Keighley's views on the subject are mainly and to the point. The paper follows in full:

This is somewhat a difficult question for me to take up for the reason that my views as a mine owner and manager might not agree with the views of the majority of mine owners and mine managers. I am going to take it for granted that my associations and experiences have been such as would tend to make me look upon questions of this kind from a modern standpoint. There is a degree of progress even among mine owners and managers, at least it is to be hoped that we are steadily advancing in our knowledge and ideas and that our judgment is no longer clouded by traditions of the past. In other words, we try to conduct our mining operations from a study of the conditions and principles involved and not because we have been in the habit of doing certain things and learned to do certain things years ago, which until late years were taken for granted as right, because well known mining men had put the seal of their approval upon them.

Personally, I think there is just as much room for improvement in mining methods today as there was ten years ago. This does not necessarily mean that there have been no improvements during the past ten years, and I wish you would not consider it as such. The truth of the matter is that we are continually meeting with new conditions and this necessitates new methods and new lines of reasoning. We all realize now that it is of the greatest importance that every ton of coal that is included in the coal area of a modern mining property must be mined out if it can possibly be done with any profit at all and with a reasonable degree of safety to the miner and without jeopardizing the capital invested in the improvements.

Perhaps some objection may be taken to the seeming solitude for the safety of the investment, but unless mining properties make a return on the investment there certainly would be no such properties in existence today. We all work and bend every effort for the purpose of being rewarded in some way and the capitalist expects reward in the return of good interest on his investment. I say "good interest" for the reason that his investment is more or less of a hazardous character and he is entitled to a good return notwithstanding the seeming safety of the contract. It must be fair to all when we consider questions of this kind; we must treat labor and capital upon an equal basis; we cannot make a standard for one and not for the other.

What chiefly concerns the mine owner and manager today is how he may secure the greatest tonnage of coal from his coal area with the greatest degree of safety to the miner and the greatest return to the owners of the property. Many of us put ourselves on what we term our present exhaustive method of mining. This term "exhaustive" is a misnomer. It is true that we are rapidly exhausting our resources but we are not removing them exhaustively; that is, we leave portions of the coal seam behind us which we should secure if for no other reason than that of the welfare of the State and country at large.

Our present method of mining does not secure all the contents of the coal seam and we make excuses for that by saying that there is a certain percentage that cannot be recovered. This is not altogether true; we imagine it cannot be recovered, and possibly all of it cannot be recovered unless we have a different class of miners. Our miners are only so-called miners. The mining men of today are continually thwarted in their purposes by the enormous proportion of raw labor material that is taken into the mines daily. This raw material is the real cause of much waste and no doubt is responsible for some, at least, of the horrifying and disastrous accidents that take place almost daily. It must be plain to all of us that we can look for no further improvement in mining methods unless we first have better material from which to build up our miners. There should not be any great difficulty in doing this. In many other lines of industry great attention is paid to the building up of the worker, that is, preparing him for his work and if greater profits, greater security, and greater yield from our coal seams are to be had it must be largely on these lines.

An ad in The Weekly Courier may sell your coal land or property.

Try a want or for sale ad in The Weekly Courier.

Italian Society Donates.

The Italian Society, at a meeting last night, subscribed \$70 to be donated for the relief of the Italian earthquake sufferers. This money has been turned over to Treasurer Guy Corrado. Mr. Corrado is also active in taking up subscriptions among the Italians of the community.

Injured in Mine.

John Herrie of Hostetter, Pa., an employee of the Hostetter Coal & Coke Company, is at the Cottage State hospital with his left leg broken below the knee as the result of a fall of slate in the mines Saturday afternoon. Herrie is 27 years old.

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Austin Coal & Coke Co.	H. C. Frick Coke Co.
Plants 2 and 3.....420	Yorktown Sheet and Bitum.
Colonial Coke Company.	Struthers Coal & Coke Co.
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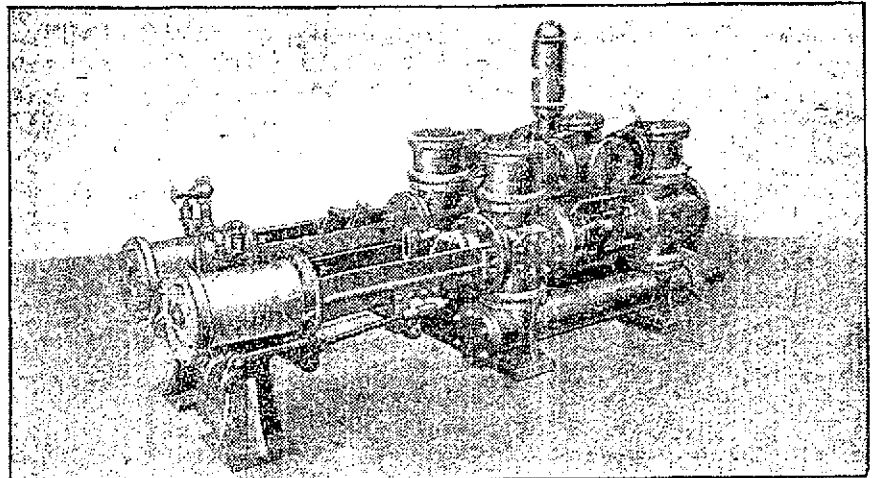
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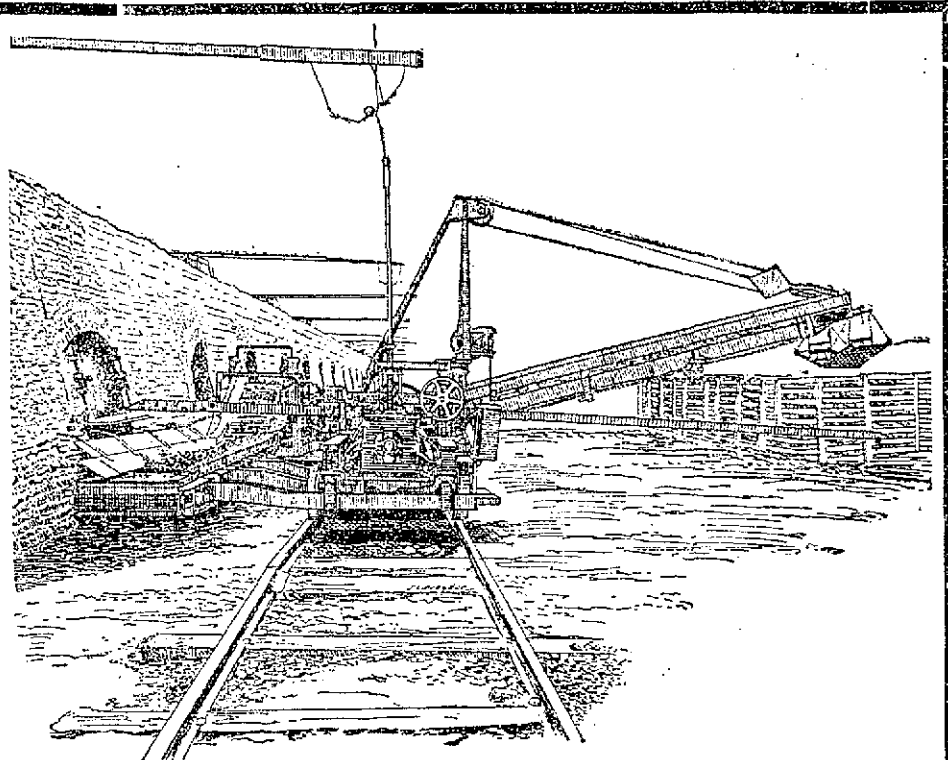
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STEAM, COMPRESSED AIR OR ELECTRIC. SINGLE, DUPLEX OR TRIPLEX PATTERNS. WOOD LINED, BRONZE OR CAST IRON FITTED. FOR MINE, TANK OR MILL SERVICE. HOISTING, HAULING AND STATIONARY. FIRST MOTION OR GEARED. HEAVY STEEL PLATE CONSTRUCTION FOR HIGH DUTY SERVICE. BLOWING, EXHAUST OR REVERSING. DRIVEN WITH PLAIN SLIDE VALVE, PISTON VALVE OR CORLISS ENGINES. SINGLE OR DUPLEX PATTERNS. SIMPLE OR COMPOUND. PLATFORM AND SELF DUMPING. LARRIES, SCREENS, CHUTES, BULL WHEELS, HEAVY GEARS AND SPECIAL MACHINERY.



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